rule is that of *Testudo indica*, which is found on the Gallapagos, at the Cape of Good Hope, and in India. From all the information I have been able to obtain, I feel convinced that it is originally and truly indigenous only to the former habitat, having been naturalized in the other countries, after being casually introduced through the medium of commerce. The writings of Lacépède and of other writers of his period, are replete with errors of this kind. Thus *Testudo græca* is referred to Europe, Asia, Africa and America, as its different habitats. It is indeed only within a few years that the geographical distribution of animals has been considered in the important light which it deserves; and the mistakes which arose from the want of giving it its due consideration, have consequently been, in many instances, corrected. It is however equally important that we avoid laying down rules of this kind as universal, without sufficient information. It is certainly an interesting fact, that in the case of birds, of insects, and of some other classes, there are very many whole groups which, according to our present knowledge, appertain exclusively to the Eastern or the Western World. In the present order, this obtains only to a very limited degree. The genus *Testudo*, it is true, is, generally speaking, a form belonging to the Old World; but there are two species, nearly allied to each other, *T. tabulata* and *T. carbonaria*, which inhabit the Continent of America, besides *T. indica*, found on the Gallapagos. Species of the genus *Emys* are found in each of the four quarters of the globe,—a statement which is generally true of all the fresh-water forms, excepting the genus *Chelydra*, the only recent species of which is exclusively American. I have however a fine fossil species of this genus (*Ch. Murchisonii*,) from Œningen, which differs only from *Ch. serpentina* in some proportions of different parts of the skeleton. The genus *Hydraspis* is principally confined to South America, yet *H. galeata* is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, of India, and of Madagascar, and *H. longicollis* of Australia. The *Emydes* of the two Hemispheres have some remarkable distinguishing characters, by which they may be readily discriminated. To these peculiarities I shall have occasion to recur. The species of the genus *Trionyx* are African or Asiatic, with the single exception of *Tr. ferox*, which inhabits the hot regions of America.

NATURAL HISTORY AND HABITS OF THE TESTUDINATA.

The habits of Tortoises appear at first sight to offer but scanty materials for the observation of the student of Nature, or the records of her historian. It would however be indeed an anomaly in natural history, were this tribe of animals to exhibit nothing in their manner of life which should interest the zoologist —no illustrations of creative design in their structure, no remarkable instances of instinct in their habits, nothing in the phænomena of their organization to satisfy the researches of the physiologist. The more we become familiarized with their manners and mode of life, and the further our investigations are carried into the effects of external agents in modifying the natural circumstances of their existence, the more we shall feel satisfied that even in these sluggish and cold-blooded creatures,—the slowness of whose pace has become a proverb, and their inactive and torpid life a common illustration of the vices of idleness and sloth,—the law of all nature still holds good, that nothing has been formed in vain, and that the structure of every animal alike displays the wisdom and perfection of the great plan of creation, and the accurate adaptation of organs, at once to internal function and to external habits.

A moment's consideration of the organization of these animals will prepare us to look for and to understand some of the most remarkable and interesting of their habits. Partaking, with the rest of the Reptilia, in the imperfect nature of the respiratory and circulating systems, it results that the body is incapable of keeping up any standard degree of temperature, which changes therefore with every alteration of the surrounding atmosphere. They are in fact what are termed cold-blooded animals. The mutual relations which exist between any one function of the animal body and all the others,—the reciprocal dependence of the functions of circulation, of respiration, of nervous activity and power, of digestion and secretion,—the intimate connexion, in short, by which all these functions are made to vary according to the variations of any one of them, receive the most striking and beautiful illustration in the habits of the Testudinata, as well as of all other forms of the Reptilia; and at once account for and require all those peculiarities which distinguish them from other classes of animals. Deriving their animal heat, then, only from external